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SATURDAY

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Legal Case on Clinton Is Uncharted Territory

President's Popularity Complicates Issue

By Ethan Bronner
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The legal waters into which the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, and President Bill Clinton have plunged are murky and relatively unexplored, criminal law experts say. Much will depend on interpretation of the evidence — mostly words and the intent behind them — and of the federal statutes, which also consist of words and their intent.

The crimes that are the subject of the investigation are not minor. They include perjury, subordination of perjury and obstruction of justice as well as conspiracy to commit any or all of them. Each carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison except obstruction, which can carry up to 10 years in prison.

The case is all the more complex because impeachment is a political process and Mr. Clinton remains, at the moment, quite popular.

It is not publicly known what Monica Lewinsky will say in her grand jury testimony or what corroboration will be brought to bear in the form of testimony by others, like her mother, Marcia Lewis, and material evidence, including taped messages and alleged gifts.

But it has been widely reported that

FBI Lab to Analyze A Lewinsky Dress

Kenneth Starr, investigating Bill Clinton's relations with Monica Lewinsky, has received a dress she said she wore while with the president and has moved for a DNA test by the FBI. Mr. Clinton said Friday that he was eager to settle the issue. Page 3.

Americans Still Indulgent

Most Americans assume that Bill Clinton the husband and father is lying. But most Americans don't want Bill Clinton the president to be impeached for it. Page 3.

Ms. Lewinsky will testify that she and Mr. Clinton had a sexual relationship and later discussed ways to deny and hide it. That brings up first the question of perjury, which is to lie under oath in a legal proceeding on a material matter. On Jan. 17, in a sworn deposition in the Paula Jones lawsuit against Mr. Clinton, the president denied having had a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

If, when he testifies on Aug. 17, he changes his story, he will have been guilty of perjury in that deposition. If, on the other hand, he sticks by his earlier statement, and the independent counsel can corroborate Ms. Lewinsky's claims that she had sex with him, the president risks being charged with perjury in these grand jury proceedings.

If criminal charges are brought, it will be up to a jury to decide between the two versions. If impeachment proceedings result, it will be up to Congress.

Few believe Mr. Starr will attempt to bring criminal charges against Mr. Clinton. It is not even known if that is constitutionally permissible. But Mr. Starr is expected to file a report to Congress, which may decide to pursue impeachment even if no clear crime has been committed.

As he gives his testimony, the president will not know exactly what Mr. Starr has as countervidence.

If Mr. Clinton changes his story and says that there had been a sexual re-

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Deutsche Bank Says It 'Regrets' Nazi Deals

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Deutsche Bank AG, faced with new findings that it might have knowingly purchased gold taken from the victims of Nazi concentration camps, on Friday accepted "moral responsibility" for its dealings during the "darkest chapters in its history."

The admission gave new hope to a group of Holocaust survivors and their heirs who filed an \$18 billion class-action lawsuit in New York last month against Germany's two biggest commercial banks, alleging the banks knowingly accepted the cash, wedding rings, tooth fillings, spectacles and other property seized from Holocaust victims.

The report confirms that business was conducted with the stolen Nazi gold. It is a damning report," said Michael Witti, a Munich-based attorney and the German partner in the U.S. suit against Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank AG, the two banks named in the suit.

The conclusions of an independent panel of historians, commissioned last year by Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank, to examine its activities during the Nazi years and released Friday, support the claims in the lawsuit, Mr. Witti told Reuters.

The five commission members from Israel, the United States, Britain and Germany said that Deutsche Bank bought 4,446 kilograms of gold from the Reichsbank, the central bank of Nazi Germany. The gold was worth just over \$5 million at the time.

Of those purchases, the bank acquired at least 744 kilograms of "Mehmer gold," taken from concentration camp victims and later recast into bullion bars under the direction of the SS officer Bruno Melmer.

It was "probable" that some Deutsche Bank managers knew of the origins of the gold, the commission said, after a "painstaking" paper chase through the bank's war-era ledgers. But the panel also conceded that it found "no clear evidence" that the bankers definitely knew that the gold belonged to concentration camp victims.

"The trade in gold was profitable," the commission found. "Although gold trading accounted for 0.15 percent of the bank's total

Fear Haunts Cambodians Who Opposed Hun Sen

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

PHNOM PENH — For many Cambodians, a vote against the ruling party in the parliamentary elections last Sunday was an act of physical bravery.

Now that the ruling party has apparently won, a growing number of its opponents are fleeing from their villages to the capital, Phnom Penh, saying that they have been threatened with reprisals.

Their reports portray a climate of intimidation in the country's thousands

of isolated villages that political analysts said could have contributed to the victory of the incumbent leader, Hun Sen.

The frightened villagers said that they were supporters of Mr. Hun Sen's two chief rivals, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy.

Though two dozen people were reportedly killed during the monthlong election campaign, human rights groups said Friday that they had not received any confirmed reports of violence since the election.

But given Cambodia's history of political killings, threats alone appear-

ed to have been enough to sow fear.

Preliminary official and unofficial vote counts have given Mr. Hun Sen's party a commanding lead, though not enough to form a government without forming a coalition with at least one of his rivals. The three parties are now engaged in a round of negotiations and mutual recriminations.

The reported threats to voters, many of which were made in advance of the vote, included warnings of post-election re-prisals, harassment by armed and sometimes drunken men, nocturnal visits and reminders of past political killings.

One opposition member who said he had received death threats told a human rights investigator he had stayed in his village just long enough to vote, then fled to Phnom Penh.

"He was told, 'If you lose, you had better get out of here; otherwise we'll kill you,'" the investigator said. "It's the same story again and again, except that it comes from all around the country."

An opposition organizer named Chay Chum, a 64-year-old farmer, said he had fled because village officials had told

See CAMBODIA, Page 8

Toyota's Gas/Electric Hit A Success at Home, Hybrid Car Heads for U.S.

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — The Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle, has been a sales success in Japan since its debut last December, leading its manufacturer, Toyota Motor Corp., to hope it can break through U.S. consumers' resistance to electric cars when it appears here in 2000.

The Prius (pronounced PREE-uhs) combines a gasoline engine with an electric motor, promising pollution levels nearly as low as those of fully electric vehicles but with the everyday practicality of a conventional gasoline-powered automobile. For that reason, many engineers are more excited about the potential of hybrid vehicles than they are about electric cars.

In the eight months the Prius has been on the market in Japan, more than 7,700 have been sold. That qualifies as a suc-

cess as measured against the modest expectations for any alternative vehicle. Toyota says the Prius will reach the American market late in 2000.

Sales are strong partly because Toyota is selling the vehicle for 2.15 million yen (\$15,000) — well below the car's development and production costs and only about \$1,500 more than the similarly sized Corolla.

The price in the United States and other details of the American model have not been determined, but the challenge there will be greater than in Japan. Gasoline prices in the United States are a fraction of Japanese prices. Moreover, Toyota must substantially alter the design if the Prius is to deliver its promised fuel economy and low emissions under American driving conditions.

In Japan's standard fuel-economy test, the Prius gets a remarkable 66 miles

See CAR, Page 8

U.S. Growth Eases And Stocks Tumble

The U.S. economy slowed in the second quarter, but growth remained above expectations because strong consumer spending blunted some of the negative effects of the crisis in Asia and the General Motors strike.

The government report weighed on the Dow Jones industrial average, which closed 143.66 points lower Friday. It was down as much as 195 points during the day. The gross domestic product expanded at a 1.4 percent annual rate in the second quarter, down sharply from a revised 5.5 percent rate in the first quarter. Page 9.

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The IHT on-line www.iht.com

AGENDA



HOSTAGE AND CAPTOR RECONCILE — Barry Rosen, left, who was held in the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979, meeting in Paris on Friday with Abbas Abdi, who was one of his student captors. Page 8.

1,500 Light-Years Away, a Cloud Yields New Twist on Origin of Life

twist of key molecules in living creatures and help explain how life arose.

The form of infrared radiation they found is said to be circularly polarized — that is, the crests and troughs of its waves follow corkscrew paths as they travel through space.

Using a large, specially equipped telescope on Siding Spring Mountain in Australia, the scientists detected the corkscrew rays streaming from a bright nebula known as M42 in the constellation Orion. This vast, luminous cloud is known to be a

stellar nursery, where thousands of new stars are condensing from the surrounding gas and dust, probably along with new planetary systems that might one day support life.

In their report, Jeremy Bailey of the Anglo-Australian Observatory and his collaborators from Britain, France and Japan say that their discovery supports the view that such radiation can help concentrate the molecules vital to life.

Mr. Bailey said in an interview this week that the discovery came as a complete surprise. He said that members of his group had intended merely to investigate the composition and distribution of dust in the Orion nebula and had not expected to see the high levels of circular polarization they detected.

The discovery may shed light on the chirality, or handedness, of terrestrial biology.

In 1848, Louis Pasteur discovered that some carbon-based molecules come in two mirror-image forms, matched with each other just as pairs of gloves are matched. One of the molecular types in such chiral, or handed, partnerships rotates beams of light to the right, and the other rotates light to the left.

After that discovery, other scientists found that the building blocks of life themselves, amino acids and sugars, are also chiral.

When chemists synthesize amino acids in the

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Newspaper Prices			
Bahrain	1,000 BD	Malta	
Cyprus	55 c	Nigeria	1,250 Naira
Denmark	14.00 DK	Oman	1,250 OR
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1998

After 46 Years, Britain Exonerates a Man Who Was Hanged

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

LONDON — For 46 years the relatives of Derek Bentley, hanged at 19 for his role in the murder of a police officer, told anyone who would listen that he was the victim of a terrible miscarriage of justice.

They went to Parliament looking for the support of legislators.

They went to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park in London and pleaded their case before the gathered crowds.

They went to documentary filmmakers, reporters and crusading book authors. And year after year they went to the British government, asking for help, and were turned away.

On Thursday, the Bentley family and what had become a passionate network of supporters finally got what they had fought for. Britain's highest court overturned the conviction against Mr. Bentley.

ley, saying that the trial judge had presented such a one-sided account of the case to the jury that Mr. Bentley had been denied "that fair trial which is the birthright of every British citizen."

"It must be a matter of profound and continuing regret that this mistrial occurred and that the defects we have found were not recognized at the time," the court said.

On the night of Nov. 2, 1952, Mr. Bentley and a 16-year-old friend, Christopher Craig, were confronted by police as they tried to break into a warehouse in south London. While Mr. Bentley, who was prone to seizures and had the mental age of 11, was held by one of the officers, Christopher Craig shot and killed Police Constable Sidney Miles.

Although Mr. Bentley took no part in the killing, three officers testified that he had yelled, "Let him have it, Chris," inciting his friend to fire at Constable Miles.

Despite Mr. Bentley's assertion that he never uttered those words, an assertion that was backed up by Christopher Craig and several other witnesses, he was convicted of murder and hanged in January 1953. Because of his age, Christopher Craig was sent to prison and was released after 10 years.

In its judgment Thursday, written by the chief justice of the Court of Appeal, Lord Bingham, the court found that the language used by the trial judge amounted to a "highly rhetorical and strongly worded denunciation of both defendants and their choices."

Among other things, the court concluded, the trial judge gave far too much weight to the word of the police officers.

"The jury were never fairly invited by the trial judge to consider the points which had been made on the appellant's behalf," the judgment said. "The effect was to deprive him of the protection

which jury trial should have afforded."

The court also said that even if Mr. Bentley had yelled, "Let him have it," the statement was ambiguous. "It could bear an innocent meaning, being an encouragement by the appellant to Craig to hand over his weapon," the ruling said.

The day Mr. Bentley was executed, crowds demonstrated outside Wandsworth Prison, where he was being held, and at the Houses of Parliament. And his 21-year-old sister, Iris, who had already lost two siblings, returned her engagement ring to her fiancé and vowed to spend the rest of her life fighting to clear her brother's name.

In years of campaigning, petitioning and hoping, she achieved a number of hard-won victories. In 1965, Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty, in part because of the country's continued unease over the Bentley case.

In 1968, Mr. Bentley's remains were

removed from a prison graveyard and buried in a grave in a south London cemetery, which Miss Bentley kept covered in flowers and where the headstone reads: "Here lies the body of Derek Bentley, a victim of British justice."

The case inspired countless sympathetic books, television documentaries, songs and films, including the 1991 feature film, "Let Him Have It."

And although one home secretary after another turned down Miss Bentley's requests to reopen the case, in 1993 Home Secretary Michael Howard finally granted Mr. Bentley a limited pardon, saying he should not have been put to death.

Last November, the Criminal Cases Review Commission, an independent body set up to re-examine possible miscarriages of justice, finally sent the Bentley case to the Court of Appeal. But the decision was too late for Iris Bentley, who died earlier in 1997 after a long struggle with cancer.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Travelers to Flood French Rail

PARIS (AFP) — The French state-run rail company SNCF said Friday that it was scheduling a record 3,500 trains this weekend to cope with an expected 2 million passengers in Paris stations.

This weekend will be unusually busy even for the season, with the traditional chaos as returning July vacationers cross paths with departing August vacationers being aggravated by the month-end falling on a weekend.

SNCF urged passengers to use public transport to get to the stations. Roads out of Paris were expected to be so clogged with traffic that the authorities were advising drivers to postpone their departure a day.

Watching Pilots' Body Clock

HONG KONG (AFP) — A revolutionary plan based on the human body's internal clock will be introduced for pilots flying in and out of Hong Kong to ensure they do not fall asleep at the controls, the South China Morning Post reported Friday.

The new rules, to be introduced in March, aim to make sure that pilots are not flying planes when their jet lag tells them they should be asleep.

Hundreds of thousands of commuters in the South African capital, Pretoria, and in the Soweto township outside Johannesburg were stranded Friday as a nationwide strike by train engineers embroiled in a wage dispute got under way. (AFP)

Austrians Warned On Beef Products

VIENNA — Austria advised its citizens Friday to avoid beef products until further notice after 80 tons of frozen beef destined for the Italian market were found to be contaminated with a carcinogenic hormone, sulfene.

The consumer affairs minister, Barbara Prammer, said that all beef products, including sausages, should be avoided for a few days.

Fresh meat is not covered by the warning. (Reuters)

Turks Discussing Anti-Islamic Front

ANKARA — The coalition partners in Turkey's outgoing government are discussing forming an alliance to block the Islam-based Virtue Party at local elections next year, party leaders said in comments published Friday.

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz put this issue on the agenda of discussions, according to the newspaper Hurriyet.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said his Democratic Left Party and Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party were considering a single candidate in key cities.

The Islamists swept the last local polls, in 1994, taking Ankara and Istanbul and dozens of other municipalities in their first major electoral success. (Reuters)

Russia Targets Nazi Propaganda

MOSCOW — The Russian government, alarmed at what it sees as a rise in neo-fascist political tendencies, expects Parliament to ban Nazi symbols and propaganda before the end of August, the justice minister said Friday.

Pavel Krasheinikov said that party leaders had already indicated they would enact the bill at a special mid-vacation session. (Reuters)

Gonzalez Calls Verdict Unfair In Trial Over 'Dirty War'

The Associated Press

MADRID — Former Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain on Friday described as radically unjust a Supreme Court verdict that found two officials of his government guilty of "dirty war" activities against Basque separatists. He contended that the court had been under pressure from the current conservative government.

In his first public reaction to the verdict Wednesday, Mr. Gonzalez, a Socialist, told the Spanish news agency Europa Press that he would support Jose Luis Barrio, the former interior minister, and Rafael Vera, the former state security chief, until the end.

Asked whether he thought the conservative government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar had pressured the court, Mr. Gonzalez replied: "It's not that I believe it. It's obvious."

Mr. Barrio and Mr. Vera were both sentenced to 10 years in jail after being found guilty along with 10 others of the 1983 kidnapping of a French businessman who had been mistaken for a man from the Basque separatist group ETA. Of the 12 defendants, only Mr. Barrio and Mr. Vera had pleaded not guilty.

The abduction was the first action attributed to the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group, or GAL, which killed 27 people between 1983 and 1987 in its pursuit of ETA members and sympathizers. Many of its victims turned out to be mistaken targets.

Mr. Gonzalez has long denied allegations that his government, in power for 13 years until it lost elections in 1996, set up and ran the GAL death squads. The scandal and other controversies contributed greatly to the Socialist Party's election defeat.

As a witness during the 22-day trial, which ended July 14, Mr. Gonzalez denied that his government had had anything to do with the dirty war. He has long contended that members and supporters of Mr. Aznar's government orchestrated a plot to discredit him.

"Why did they do it?" Mr. Gonzalez asked rhetorically during the interview. "Because they believed that was the only way open for them to win. Their policies are based on destruction and elimination of the adversary," he added.

McDonald's



ROYAL WITH CHEESE? — Queen Elizabeth II arriving at a McDonald's restaurant in Ellesmere Port, northern England, on Friday while on a regional tour. The monarch did not stay for dinner. (The Associated Press)



Buffalo Bob, whose "Howdy Doody Show" was a hit with baby boomers, holding an original Howdy Doody puppet in 1997. (The Associated Press)

'Buffalo Bob' Smith of 'Howdy Doody' Fame Dies

By Claudia Levy
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — "Buffalo Bob" Smith, whose "Howdy Doody Show" was a founding program of children's television and must viewing for young baby boomers nationwide, died of cancer Thursday at a hospital in Henderson, North Carolina. He was 80.

"Howdy Doody," which Mr. Smith helped create and sustain for years as a cultural phenomenon, featured a red-haired, freckle-faced marionette in a cowboy outfit. Howdy's lines were spoken by Mr. Smith, who dressed in a cowboy outfit, too, and acted as host.

Mr. Smith, who was born Robert Schmidt, began in radio in his native Buffalo when he was 15. He got his break in show business two years later when he joined the vaudeville act of singer Kate Smith. He played the piano for her and acted as master of ceremonies.

He was doing a Saturday radio program called "The Triple B Ranch" in 1947 when NBC began to look for a children's television program. Mr.

Smith had invented a goofy character named Elmer whose catch phrase, when introduced to children, was: "Well, howdy doody!"

"Howdy Doody" evolved out of Mr. Smith's program, and an early television show called "Puppet Playhouse," which gained attention in New York in 1947 during a blizzard that kept schoolchildren at home and desperate for amusement.

The "Howdy Doody Show" lasted 13 years, finally succumbing to the rivalries of "The Mickey Mouse Club," cartoons and other daytime programming.

But it set several marks: It was the first daytime program broadcast regularly in color and the first mega-hit among elementary school students of the burgeoning postwar generation.

"Howdy Doody" scripts, written in large part by Eddie Dean, reflected the innocence of the time, with messages about safety and respect for parents.

It was one of the first television offerings with major and lucrative merchandising tie-ins. Young fans pestered their parents to buy the program on NBC in 1951, invested in television stations in Maine, a liquor store and hundreds of thousands of "Howdy Doody" lunch boxes, wallpaper,

sweat shirts, toys and other merchandise. By the end of 1950, half a million "Howdy Doody" record albums and 15 million comic books had been sold.

Mr. Smith's opening greeting — "Hey, kids, what time is it?" — elicited a daily response — "It's Howdy Doody time!" — from the nearby Peanut Gallery, as the studio audience was known. The youngsters were an integral part of the program, which also featured Clarabelle the Clown, Princess Summerhill Winter-Spring, Phineas T. Bluster, Dilly Dally, Chief Thunderthud, Trapper John and Flintheart.

Mr. Smith, who did two radio programs a week in addition to "Howdy Doody," suffered a heart attack in 1954. But the network set up a studio in his basement and he was able to perform from there for a year.

"The Howdy Doody Show" was cut back to Saturdays in 1956 and went off the air four years later, after a record run of 2,343 shows. Mr. Smith, who had sold the rights to the program to NBC in 1951, invested in television

stations in Maine, a liquor store and real estate. Across the northern Plains, downpours are likely front. Italy into the Balkans. Sun into western China. Steamy and rain in Madrid and Moscow.

He re-emerged as a cultural icon in 1970, when he was asked to speak at the University of Pennsylvania. He was dubious that college students made cynical by the Vietnam War and civil rights protests would be interested in him anymore. "I thought they were joking," he told interviewers.

But he was greeted with an emotional outpouring of affection by a packed auditorium. It was good, he later said, "to know that they want to relive their happy, carefree days."

After that, Mr. Smith was a regular on the college lecture circuit and, later, at shopping mall shows and nostalgia conventions. He taped 130 new "Howdy Doody" programs for syndication, but the show failed to catch on with the children of baby boomers.

Mr. Smith later sold illustrations on the QVC shopping network and occasionally starred in commercials. His book of memoirs, "Howdy and Me," was published in 1991. He was warm in his praise of "Sesame Street."

Aging fans now trade "Howdy Doody" memorabilia that has grown increasingly pricey, and the original trappings of the show were sold at auction by a prestigious firm.

French Probe Crash Of Planes Off Coast

Agence France-Presse

QUIBERON, France — Prosecutors opened a manslaughter inquiry Friday into an air collision and crash into the sea of two French aircraft off Brittany in which 15 people are believed to have died.

Seven bodies were found late Thursday shortly after the collision of a Beechcraft 1900 regional passenger plane of the Proteus airline and a Cessna of the Vannes Air Club.

Searches were under way for eight others presumed killed after the aircraft plunged into the Atlantic 10 kilometers (six miles) from this coastal town.

The Beechcraft evidently deviated from its flight path to give passengers a look at the cruise ship Norway, formerly the France, which was in the area.

Four helicopters, diving teams and a navy plane resumed the search early Friday after a coast guard vessel spent the night searching the area.

The investigators will interview witnesses who were aboard a boat and two planes in the vicinity.

They will also study air-traffic recordings at the western towns of Lorient and Brest, and also at Lyon, the departure point of the Beechcraft.

Charles Tillinghast Jr. Is Dead; Lawyer Was Chairman of TWA

The Associated Press

In 1960, Sir David accompanied Prime Minister Harold Macmillan on an African tour and wrote the prime minister's famous "winds of change" speech, delivered to the South African Parliament. After serving as ambassador to Brazil between 1969 and 1973, Sir David retired from the diplomatic service and wrote scholarly books and articles on art history.

He published an autobiography in 1975.

ASA TAKII OF HIROSHIMA, 114, Oldest Person in Japan

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The oldest person in Japan, Asa Takii, died Friday. She was 114. She was born on April 28, 1884, in Hiroshima. She was there on Aug. 6, 1945, when the atomic bomb killed her husband and family and buried her in rubble until she was found days later.

She died of heart complications in a nursing home in Hiroshima prefecture.

The Japanese have the world's longest life expectancy: 83 years for women and 77 years for men, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry.

WEATHER

Forecast for Sunday through Tuesday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe

Unseasonably cold Sunday. Monday: Patches of snow in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Northern France. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Thursday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Friday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Saturday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Sunday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Monday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Tuesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany. Wednesday: More snow in Northern France and Northern Germany

Lewinsky Dress Offered as Evidence

FBI Test Sought to Determine if There Is DNA Link to Clinton

By Don Van Natta Jr.
and John M. Broder
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Prosecutors are seeking genetic tests on a dress belonging to Monica Lewinsky that, she has said, contains evidence of a sexual encounter with President Bill Clinton, lawyers close to the case say.

Ms. Lewinsky turned the dress over to the office of the Whitewater independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, on Wednesday, the lawyers said. It had been stored for several months in the New York apartment of Ms. Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis.

This could put the mother in jeopardy of an obstruction-of-justice charge for concealing evidence that the prosecutors had sought during a search of Ms. Lewinsky's apartment in Washington.

[President Clinton pledged Friday to testify "completely and truthfully" in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. The Associated Press reported from Washington.]

"No one wants to get this matter beyond us more than I do, except maybe all the rest of the American people," Mr. Clinton said at a Rose Garden ceremony. "I am looking forward to the opportunity in the next few days of testifying."

"I will do so completely and truthfully. I am anxious to do it. But I hope you can understand why in the interim I can and should have no further comment on these matters."

Ms. Lewinsky and her mother were given broad grants of immunity from the prosecution this week in exchange for providing full accounts of Ms. Lewinsky's relationship with the president.

They also agreed to turn over evidence, including the dress, and answering-machine tapes containing messages to Ms. Lewinsky left by the president, the lawyers said.

The messages were innocuous, said a lawyer who had heard them. In one, just before Christmas last year, the president told Ms. Lewinsky that the brother of his private secretary, Beny Curiel, had died. In another, the lawyer said, Mr. Clinton remarked, "Hey, it's me. Sorry I missed you."

The president has maintained a relative silence on the Lewinsky matter since late January, when he firmly denied having had "sexual relations" with Ms. Lewinsky and said he had not told anyone to lie under oath.

The president's decision to submit to grand jury questioning, which was announced Wednesday, came after numerous requests from Mr. Starr over

several months, culminating in a subpoena issued July 17.

Many of the president's advisers urged him to resist or ignore the subpoena, but he decided that giving testimony now was the quickest way to conclude the investigation.

Ms. Lewinsky's dress is expected to be sent to an FBI laboratory for DNA testing to determine whether there is a stain from Mr. Clinton's semen, as Ms. Lewinsky asserts, according to lawyers.

Michael McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Mr. Clinton had no intention of speaking to the news media or to the public in any detail in the next two weeks about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky or about any of the other questions arising from the months-long perjury and obstruction-of-justice investigation being conducted by Mr. Starr.

Prosecutors first learned of the existence of a dress that might be evidence in the case from tape recordings surreptitiously made by Linda Tripp of conversations with Ms. Lewinsky, according to a lawyer with knowledge of the tapes.

It is not known whether Ms. Lewinsky laundered the dress before turning it over to her mother.

If semen is found on the dress, prosecutors would then probably seek a saliva or blood sample from the president to determine a DNA match.

The tests are extremely reliable, according to prosecutors and defense lawyers who use DNA testing in trials. Such a stain would retain DNA material for many years, unless the dress had been cleaned with detergents, experts said.

Dry cleaning alone would not remove it nor would storage under unfavorable conditions, they said.

With modern instruments and computers, matching could be completed in a matter of days, said Barry Scheck, a prominent New York defense lawyer and an expert on genetic testing.

Mr. Scheck served as a consultant in the O. J. Simpson murder case.

"If there is no sperm on the dress, that's the end of the hysteria," Mr. Scheck said. "If there is, there is no legal basis for the president to resist giving a DNA sample, a simple swab from the inside of his cheek."

Keeping the results secret until Mr. Clinton's Aug. 17 testimony — as a way to set a "perjury trap" — would be unfair to Mr. Clinton and bad for the nation as well, Mr. Scheck said.

Mr. Starr, stung by accusations that his office had leaked sensitive grand jury material to the media, issued a two-sentence statement Thursday, with Ms. Lewinsky's lawyers, denying they were the source of news accounts this week about Ms. Lewinsky's proposed testimony.

It has been reported that Ms. Lewinsky told members of the independent counsel's office that she did have a sexual relationship with President Clinton.

Both had denied this, under oath, in testimony for the sexual harassment lawsuit filed against Mr. Clinton by Paula Jones, a state employee in Arkansas.

It was also disclosed that Ms. Lewinsky was willing to testify that she and Mr. Clinton had agreed to deny a sexual relationship.

■ President Still Popular

Two new polls indicate that most Americans approve of Mr. Clinton's performance and of his decision to testify in the grand jury investigation. The Associated Press reported on Friday from Washington.

Eighty-five percent of those polled by ABC News said they approved of the president's decision to testify.

Mr. Clinton's approval rating was 64 percent in a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll and 65 percent in the ABC News poll.

His approval ratings have been high for several months, but the Journal/NBC poll showed some erosion of that support.

The poll showed an increase in the number of people who believed impeachment hearings would be warranted if Mr. Starr reported that Mr. Clinton committed perjury.

Only 39 percent said that a month ago.

The Journal/NBC telephone survey of 1,006 adults had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

BOOKS

GAIN
By Richard Powers. 353 pages. \$25.
Farrar Straus Giroux.

Reviewed by Thomas M. Disch
RICHARD POWERS'S powerful and peculiar novel, "Gain," is the largest compliment any author has paid to the American reading public in decades, for the author assumes that we will take in his meaning, which is large, elusive and horrifying, without his offering a word of explanation.

Whoever will write students' Cliff Notes for this book, sometime in the 21st century, will have their work cut out for him, or her, because the author, though always lucid and straightforward, has delivered a sealed verdict. These are the facts, Powers seems to say, presenting two mighty mounds of evidence. You must interpret them.

The first mound is a chronicle of the slow death by ovarian cancer of an American Everywoman, Laura Boddy of Laceywood, Illinois, from the first test results to the moment her disposable camera is jettisoned by the nurse's aide cleaning out her bedside drawer.

As a photorealist documentation of a formative contemporary death, "Gain" has no rivals this side of Tolstoy's "The Death of Ivan Ilych." Every twitch and twinge of Laura's death is set forth in unsparring and luminous detail. Any reader will wish to die with similar stoic grace.

The other half of the book is an account, spanning two centuries, of the birth and proliferating growth of the Clare Corp., as its founder Jephthah Clare parlays a cargo of Wedgwood stoneware into a multinational corporation that will come to market, among other products, Viva-cleanse, Clarity Pore Purifier, Blue Spruce Vapogard, Sterisol, Infinitik, Gasrel Caps, and Partfest Non-Dari Treats.

The economic history of "Clare Material Solutions" — one of its many

corporate aliases — is imagined with such density of telling detail that this strand of the novel would make an excellent supplement to any course in the economic history of corporate America. Neither Marxist vituperation nor Chamber of Commerce hype, this is Big Business as rendered by the Recording Angel, lucidly, with a cool respect.

Readers expecting, as I did, that the twain will meet somewhere close to the denouement — and that Laura's cancer will be shown to have its sources in the ecological ravages wrought by the pharmaceutical Leviathan — are in for a surprise. Or, rather, for none at all. Laura does finally consent to take a ticket in the lottery of a class-action lawsuit brought by residents of Laceywood against Clare Inc., but there is no big courtroom scene, no showdown of any sort. Laura's attitude is summed up in one paragraph of world-weary wisdom when her loving ex-urges her to get what is "due" her:

"She is due nothing. No more than anyone else with a body. No more than anyone who will get sick, which is everyone. As bad as she had it, millions will have it worse. She is on her own. And anyone who promises otherwise is selling a bill of goods."

This is not the world according to John Grisham or even E.L. Doctorow, where justice can triumph against the odds and Goliath corporations are zapped by an underdog David. Powers refused to load his dice to favor innocence and virtue. Laura's suffering as she soldiers through her prescribed regimen of chemotherapy is evoked in unsparring detail, but it is not blamed on Big Medicine.

All the misery in the book is just part of daily life and death, and the moments of transcendence, while often spectacularly beautiful, are just that — moments. This is an attitude more often found in poetry than in novels, where

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POLITICAL NOTES



FAREWELL TO A HERO — A hearse with the body of John Gibson, one of two officers killed by a gunman at the Capitol on July 24, drawing a salute from other officers as it enters Arlington National Cemetery. Larry Downing/Reuters

Political Funds Bill Surviving in House

es. The bill would also restrict independent advertising by single-issue advocacy groups in specified periods before elections.

The legislation — and a companion bill in the Senate — is fiercely opposed by the Republican leadership. Some view it as a way to erode the party's traditional advantage in fund-raising while others call it an unconstitutional abridgment of free speech. (NYT)

On Thursday, Representative Christopher Shays, Republican of Connecticut, and Representative Martin Meehan, Democrat of Massachusetts, continued an effort to block 16 of the 37 amendments proposed to their bill. They asserted that the proposals were intended to divide their coalition and drive away supporters.

"Our objective today is to defeat all the poison pills," Mr. Shays said. "We're still alive. This is the bill that won't die. But we're in the middle of a minefield."

The Shays-Meehan legislation would effectively ban unlimited and unregulated contributions to political parties (soft money), which were at the heart of 1996 campaign finance abuses.

switch was revealed after one of the girls underwent three genetic tests earlier this month. DNA results proved that the girl, whom 30-year-old Paula Johnson has loved and raised since bringing her home from the hospital is not her biological child. (AP)

• A coyote sprang from the woods and attacked a 3-year-old boy on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, as he played on his backyard swingset. He was rescued when his mother kicked and punched the coyote, wresting her bleeding son from its clutches. The police arrived and shot the animal. (Boston Globe)

Montgomery, Alabama —

Former Governor George Wallace, in

a hospital with breathing problems,

improved Thursday as doctors con-

tinued treating him with oxygen and

antibiotics, his son said.

Mr. Wallace, 78, paralyzed from the

waist down by a would-be assassin's

bullet in 1972 and suffering from Par-

kinson's disease, was listed as serious

but stable in the intensive-care unit of

Jackson Hospital. (AP)

Away From Politics

• If the price of cigarettes were increased by 50 percent, 3.5 million Americans would quit smoking and another 2.4 million would cut back on the number of cigarettes they smoke, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (WP)

• Two newborn girls went home with the wrong mothers three years ago in Charlottesville, Virginia, in a switch that authorities are investigating as a deliberate criminal act. The

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Facing The Truth

Christians and Jews of America must reach for the courage of Jesus and Moses in order to diffuse the spell of mutual distrust that continues to embroil all of the Children of Abraham.

Their frequently misplaced righteousness and one-sided sense of moral culpability perpetuate the painful plight of every innocent victim in the Holy Land.

America's Christian and Jewish leaders should set aside their concern for political correctness and relinquish the evasive tactics of the past. Unless they take hold of the fast-deteriorating situation in the Middle-East, Israel's self-inflicted isolation and escalating abrasiveness will lead to further suffering and vindictive bloodshed in what was once the land of milk and honey.



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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Justice Thomas

Ideas, Not Race

Justice Clarence Thomas unloaded on his critics the other day, twisting the case against him just as he did seven years ago when the Senate was considering his nomination to the Supreme Court. Then he complained he was the target of a "high-tech lynching."

This past week he charged critics with vilifying him because he is a black who does not hold their liberal views. He said he would refuse to have his ideas assigned to him as though he were "an intellectual slave" because he is black. What Justice Thomas seems unable to appreciate is that the issue is not his race but the content of his ideas.

It is no surprise that his staunchly conservative positions on social issues have been denounced by civil rights leaders as damaging to the welfare of minorities. That they happen to come from a black jurist is incidental, though disappointing to many blacks. The fact that he himself benefited from programs that opened up educational opportunities to minorities adds to the resentment. But it is the substance of his views on matters of affirmative action, criminal justice and voting rights that has drawn attack from liberals of all races.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Rule of Principle

Justice Clarence Thomas has handled with considerable aplomb his latest bout with those who believe his role on the Supreme Court is to represent the interests of an ethnic constituency. In the face of an effort by some members of the National Bar Association — an organization of African-American lawyers — to disinvite him as the keynote speaker at the group's national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, Justice Thomas showed up and passionately defended the legitimacy of who he is.

"I have come here today, not in anger or to anger, though my mere presence has been sufficient, obviously, to anger some," he said. "Nor have I come to defend my views, but rather to assert my right to think for myself. I refuse to have my ideas assigned to me as though I was an intellectual slave because I'm black."

Justice Thomas's general approach to the U.S. Constitution is not our own, although he has been a more interesting and thoughtful justice than many of his critics acknowledge. On this matter, however, one can only cheer him on.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Trial for Libyans

The passage of time is making it necessary to explore whether the West's demand for justice in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 can be met short of trial of the two Libyan suspects in the United States or Scotland. The sanctions on air travel to Libya that the United Nations Security Council voted to impose are eroding, and the feeling is widespread that 10 years is a long time.

The United States and Britain, which together lost 270 citizens in the bombing, are considering a plan to try the Libyans in a third country — a face-saving gesture to Colonel Moammar Gadhafi. But the third country would be the Netherlands, and the trial would unfold quickly in a Scottish court set up in The Hague.

The danger here is that Libya would use any sign of American or British compromise to open an endless divisive procedural negotiation that would play on Western impatience in order to weaken Western standards of justice. In a parallel case of airborne terrorism, for instance, France now intends to try Libyan suspects without requiring them to appear in court. Further, it will be left to Libya to administer the French court's sentence — French law does not provide for the death penalty — according to a judicial cooperation agreement the two governments concluded in 1996. Such a trusting example is inconceivable in the United States, one hopes.

Certainly Americans, and especially many families of victims, would prefer a trial on home ground. Some would prefer trial in a court with the death penalty; Scottish law does not provide for this result. But trial in a Scottish court with full Western procedural protections would meet

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Review Special Counsel Law

Clearly, America's independent counsel law needs a careful re-examination when it comes up for renewal in Congress. The nation must have a system for impartial investigation of potential lawbreaking by high government officials, but the Whitewater probe seems to have taken on a life of its own.

It may also be helpful to remember that six months of investigating the Lewinsky affair has brought us Americans right back to where we started, with allegations that the president had sex with Monica Lewinsky and lied about it. We must analyze what damage has been done to the institution of the presidency in the process.

Presidents are not about the law. They must be accountable to the people. But that does not justify creating a permanent institution steeped in politics that makes it possible to baffle presidents of either party out of office.

—Los Angeles Times.

Milosevic's Astonishing, and Appalling, Record

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The international community seems as opposed to an independent Kosovo as does Slobodan Milosevic, the appalling president of Yugoslavia.

Or as opposed as Mr. Milosevic seems to be. I offer the qualification because Kosovo's independence would solve basic problems for Mr. Milosevic. The revolt against Serbian rule in Kosovo that he has provoked is unlikely to be defeated, however brutally the measures.

Serbia's forces are not going to be defeated either. But if the rebels can install a continuing, even if limited, insurgency, an impossible situation will have been created for Serbia.

The liberation army that has sprung up, under rather mysterious circumstances, has in recent days made the classic mistake of trying to take and hold towns where regular police and soldiers could defeat it. If the guerrillas have learned their lesson they will return to the tactics of harassment, encirclement, denial and maneuver that are guerrilla strengths.

Even before the current fighting, a tendency to leave the region was reported among Kosovo's Serbian minorities, which can see that its future is not bright. There is grumbling inside Serbia about the cost and casualties of trying to put down the rebellion. There is little

enthusiasm about dying for Kosovo.

Losing Kosovo in a manner that could be blamed not only on the insurgents but on the international community's interference and pressures — best of all, a loss that could be blamed on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United States — could actually strengthen Mr. Milosevic's situation.

It would allow him to portray himself as the man who tried to restore Serbian greatness but who was defeated — as so often in Serbia's past, as Serbian nationalist myth would have it — by sinister foreign forces allied with Serbia's enemies.

He already has benefited personally from betraying the Serbian minorities in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He incited them to violent resistance against those states. He then walked away from the Krajina Serbs in Croatia and those of the "Republika Srpska" in Bosnia when it became to his advantage to sign the Dayton agreement.

His record is astonishing, and the Serbs' willingness to continue to support him is even more astonishing. He destroyed the multinational Yugoslavia that Tito had preserved, in which the Kosovar enjoyed autonomous status.

He promised a Greater Serbia but may deliver a truncated one.

The outcome of his policies could be Serbia's loss of Kosovo, historically the heartland of the Serbian nation. An effort to create a Greater Albania may follow. That would be a major rival, or

according to some, for its union with Albania.

The guerrilla army has taken control of the situation away from the non-violent "president" of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, unofficially elected by Kosovars in 1992. Western diplomats hope that the insurgents will be more inclined to talk and compromise after their defeat this past week.

One must hope so. If it is now too late for autonomy to provide a solution (even if it were offered), the West's defense of the Kosovo Albanians may encourage Albanian irredentism.

Macedonia and Greece now may be the places where a deteriorating situation has to be stabilized.

ens outside powers because it could come into existence only through merging Kosovo with Albania and annexing the Albanian-populated part of Macedonia. That could be fatal for Macedonia and invite Greek, Bulgarian and even Turkish intervention, with literally incalculable consequences for the region.

The West's rather desperate diplomatic efforts to restart negotiations have run into Mr. Milosevic's rejection of interference and the lack of someone to talk to on the Kosovar side — of someone, that is, who can speak for the liberation army. No one knows who controls it.

The guerrilla army has taken control of the situation away from the non-violent "president" of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, unofficially elected by Kosovars in 1992. Western diplomats hope that the insurgents will be more inclined to talk and compromise after their defeat this past week.

One must hope so. If it is now too late for autonomy to provide a solution (even if it were offered), the West's defense of the Kosovo Albanians may encourage Albanian irredentism.

International Herald Tribune
Los Angeles Times Syndicate

U.S. Passivity in the Middle East Is a Recipe for Danger

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration struggles to maintain an uneasy status quo in the Middle East, pursuing a strategy that seems more designed to keep problems off Bill Clinton's desk than to get them solved.

This passivity virtually guarantees that American moral authority and political leadership will be undermined in a region where standing still means sinking quickly into constantly shifting desert sands.

The commitment to muddling through — to keeping unsatisfactory situations from getting worse over the final 29 months of the Clinton presidency — surfaces most clearly in Washington's recent equivocal handling of Libya, Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The United States began this decade by taking a strong moral stand against destructive Arab radicalism and nationalism. The policymakers of the Bush administration consciously entered an Arab civil war, ignited by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, on the side of countries

that would not accept Saddam Hussein's vicious and primitive version of pan-Arabism.

At the same time, Bush & Co. coupled the drive to encourage justice in Arab politics with heavy pressure on the Israeli Likud government of the time and on the Palestinians to negotiate an end to their conflict.

The combination of a just war and arm-twisting at the peace table eventually led to the Oslo peace accords.

The gradual descent from grand strategy to a legalistic, flank-covering course of protecting the status quo shows clearly today in the way in which the administration has made keeping economic sanctions in place its primary policy objective in Libya and Iraq.

Earlier pretense of a commitment to changing the regime in Baghdad and making life more difficult for Moammar Gadhafi and for those who give him comfort and material help has been abandoned, in deed if not in word.

By Jim Hoagland

Mr. Clinton abandoned military strikes against Iraq in February in large part because of his fear that international reaction would make it impossible to keep the comprehensive sanctions adopted after the invasion of Kuwait.

On Libya the administration is now engaged in legalistic jujitsu over sanctions enacted to punish Colonel Gadhafi for refusing to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The State Department has confirmed that it was considering agreeing to Colonel Gadhafi's reported willingness to let the suspects be tried in The Hague, before Scottish judges.

A senior official later explained to me that there was no real expectation that such a trial would be held.

"Many people strongly believe Libya is bluffing. If the bluff is called, our effort to keep sanctions on, or even get them increased, will be strengthened," the official said.

"And those who have been pushing for relief for Gadhafi will be weakened."

The move is Clintonian: clever, and purely tactical. It misses the point of what is happening in Arab political dynamics, which are again sinking toward the lowest common denominator of intimidation and violence.

The absence of a clear American commitment to do more than muddle through on either war or peace is encouraging key nations to seek their own accommodations with regimes and forces that threaten them and oppose any American role in the Middle East.

When President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt flew to Tripoli last month to comfort an ailing Colonel Gadhafi (and to put him up in the eyes of the Arab world), the Clinton administration did not oppose this in the UN Security Council or offer any serious criticism. The administration "did not want to seem to be unreasonable" and weaken support for sanctions, the senior official said.

And when a U.S. pilot enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq will be weakened."

The move is Clintonian: clever, and purely tactical. It misses the point of what is happening in Arab political dynamics, which are again sinking toward the lowest common denominator of intimidation and violence.

These are signs that the Arab political establishment has come to feel that at a minimum, there is no penalty for helping America's declared enemies in the Arab world.

Without a central U.S. commitment to combatting actively the most dangerous and destructive political currents in the Arab world, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's stone-walling on building a durable peace with the Palestinians is wholly predictable.

Tactics and equivocation have their place in diplomacy and strategy. But they also have their cost, as the Clinton White House seems determined to prove in the Middle East.

The Washington Post.

Adultery and the Presidency: Putting the Office at Risk

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — Twenty-five years ago an editor on The New York Times, decently paid and with a good future, diverted money from the newspaper to himself — less than \$1,000. He did it in a way that made it inevitable that the paper would soon find out.

I was heading the news department. The first words I said to him after I was told were: "What did you do to us?"

You, me, the newsroom. He knew what I meant: we read each other's unhappy eyes. I was saying I had to fire him immediately. Otherwise the paper could no longer operate with assumption of honor — impossible to contemplate.

What has President Bill Clinton done to us, the United States? An adulterer knows always that, if discovered, he will

damage his family. Both the act and consequences, in our society, are considered the business of the adulterer and the few who put us at risk.

But if Bill Clinton committed adultery in the White House, he also committed putting the presidency at reckless, selfish risk. That is why it sticks in my own gut.

The presidency does not belong to any president. It is his to guard, not to put in jeopardy or to throw on the table like a one-dollar chip.

Whether Americans in President John F. Kennedy's time cared about presidential adultery, or knew, or whether foreign presidents have no worries about sex does not matter. This is America now, not in the

Kennedy era, and we vote only for our own president.

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ART

New Focus on Masterpieces

Museums Rush to Snap Up the Few Remaining

By Souren Melikian
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK.— The race for the last world masterpieces in private hands is gathering momentum. Leading museums on the international scene, increasingly aware that supplies are running out, have never shown such determination to acquire works deemed to fit into the jigsaw puzzle of their art collections. But fearful of pushing prices higher still and anxious not to give ideas to the competition, they say little about the circumstances of their triumphs and even less about costs. Three major acquisitions just made by leading international museums have gone virtually unnoticed.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York alone made a formal announcement, but that did not make much of a difference to the media. Perhaps the subject, a Brussels tapestry woven circa 1500-1504, sounded a bit remote and that is unfair. Never did a tapestry look quite so much like a picture.

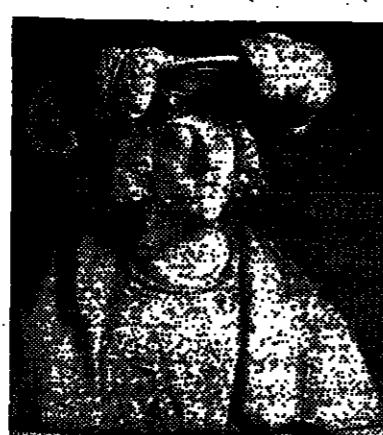
"The Triumph of Fame" is composed like one and, more unusually, has the crisp detail of a painting. The winged character holding up the globe of the world in the midst of a crowd of gazing admirers could have stepped out of some Flemish panel from Bruges.

Indeed, the cartoon painted for it is believed by art historians to be from the same hand as a "Pieta" in Brussels museum. What makes the tapestry even more remarkable is that a royal inventory of 1504 describes it. It was then in the collection of Isabella the Catholic with three others from the same set on the theme of "Triumphs," which have all been traced. "The Triumph of Death" is now hanging in the Renaissance chateau of Azay-le-Rideau.

"The Triumph of Love" is in the Louvre and "The Triumph of Time" is known from a photograph taken when it belonged to a Spanish grandeza together with the Met tapestry.

When "The Triumph of Fame," owned by Bernard Blondel of Paris, was displayed at Blumka's in January this year to celebrate the New York Gallery's grand refurbishing on 72d Street, Thomas Campbell, a recently appointed curator of textiles at the Met,

was galvanized into action. The tapestry is not just a historic gem, it is in quasi-mint condition. It might arguably be called the finest Flemish pictorial tapestry offered in the market since World War II. Yet, until this year, the masterpiece elicited no such rapid response. Published by Blondel in a catalogue to coincide with the 1996 Paris Biennale, it excited great interest



The Prado's bust of Charles V.

but things went no further. True, not every museum has \$2 million ready — the figure quoted at the Biennale.

But even if the young curator's ardor touched a chord with Blondel who is himself one of the world's leading connoisseurs on the subject, and probably induced the dealer to make some concession, this year's transaction proved that cash was not the heart of the problem. It was the will to proceed.

Another prompt reaction from an institution long reputed to be slow suggests that the mood has changed in the museum world. It concerns one of the most extraordinary portraits ever carved by a Northern Renaissance artist. The bust of Charles V of Spain shows the emperor as a young man foppishly dressed, the collar of his mantle tightly turned up and his legendary hat with ostrich plumes tilted at a rakish angle. The ruler's expression with his eyes closely set, narrowing slightly in his long oval face and with his lips open as if to spew out cold rage, is unforgettable. But easily overlooked until last year, it would seem.

It then appeared in a Left Bank gallery in Paris, where it certainly did not attract museum attention. The Louvre could have stopped it from leaving France. Did the sight of some damage and restoration inhibit such a reaction? Or was it the anonymity of the sitter, not identified as Charles V? Probably not the latter. The knowledgeable Louvre curators would have recognized the image.

Indifference is the likely answer.

That saved the day for Daniel Katz of London who bought it from his Paris colleague, who had no trouble getting an export license. Katz got the remarkable art historian Johannes von Auerberg, who works for him, to identify the sitter beyond any doubt and published the bust in the catalogue, which came out in April. This time the museum world reacted. The Prado, alerted to the existence of the bust by Katz, expressed interest. Its appearance in the selling show put up by the dealer on his London premises in Jermyn Street, where it opened on June 8, set the wheels rolling. The asking price is believed to have been well under \$400,000.

No details are ever divulged about discussions between museums and dealers, but the Prado curators' diligence was remarkable, for by mid-July Katz reported that the transaction had gone through.

Tenacity of a similar kind, albeit in very different circumstances, was displayed by a third museum, likewise allowing it to make a big catch. Last week, Douglas Druick, curator of prints and drawings at the Chicago Art Institute, said that his museum had bought "L'Anniversaire," also known as "Homage a Berlioz," a pastel by Henri Fantin-Latour.

Drawn in 1877 as a tribute to the French composer, "L'Anniversaire" was probably the last important pastel by the artist to remain in private hands. The soft touch of the pastel crayons creates a blur around the edges that superficially evokes Impressionism. But the elaborate composition of figures goes back to an early tradition closer to the Louis XIV age than to Fantin-Latour's own time.

When it appeared on the stand of the Paris dealer Waring Hopkins at the May Fine Art Fair, "L'Anniversaire" was his early acquaintance with the pastel and Hopkins's own keenness to have it



The Brussels "Triumph of Fame" tapestry, circa 1500, which has the crisp detail of a painting.

aroused intense excitement. Before the opening, a leading U.S. institution, whose curator was on the vetting committee, approached Hopkins with a firm offer — the asking price was \$300,000. On the opening night similar offers were made by two private collectors and two other U.S. museums let it be known that they would be interested in opening discussions.

What saved the day for Druick was his early acquaintance with the pastel and Hopkins's own keenness to have it enter the Art Institute — the dealer personally considers its vast pastel collection to be the greatest in the world. Druick first heard about the Fantin-Latour when Hopkins, then working on a big show of 19th and 20th century pastels, asked him if he could recommend anyone with a specific interest in the Fantin-Latour work to write an entry. Druick, a leading scholar in the subject, volunteered to do it, much to Hopkins's delight. In the event, the art show project was

abandoned, but Druick did not forget the pastel, nor did Hopkins forget the curator's keenness about it. When the Paris dealer decided to take the pastel to the New York fair, Druick was the first to hear about it — and the first to make an offer.

The important addition to the Institute collection has not been given any publicity. Like strategists in the terminal phase of a war, museum curators are too intensely focused on the action to find time for celebrating.

Mayan Objects Stir a Debate

By Susan Diesenhouse
New York Times Service

BOSTON — In its first effort to make art from Africa, Oceania and pre-Columbian America part of its permanent exhibit, the Museum of Fine Arts here has stepped into the storm over the questionable provenance of art, which is buffeting major museums and private collectors.

Museum officials initially rejected a request from Guatemala to eventually return a 138-piece collection of Mayan art that is the jewel of its pre-Columbian display.

In a two-paragraph letter written a month ago to a Guatemalan official, Malcolm Rogers, director of the museum, said that its board of trustees "found no basis" for Guatemala's ownership claim because the country could not produce legal title to the pieces.

Guatemala, meanwhile, charges that the museum has refused to produce documents that prove the collection was legally removed from a region where the U.S. government has long recognized that Mayan sites are endangered by looters.

Carlos Enrique Zea Flores, an archaeologist who is Guatemala's vice minister for culture and sports, said he no longer considers the Museum of Fine Arts to be "an ethical institution." He said: "It's more like a collector who buys and sells pieces looted from the Mayan world."

Last December, the 128-year-old museum opened three permanent galleries for art, artifacts and cultural objects from Africa, Oceania and Latin America, which feature collections from two longtime patrons.

The African collection of about 150 pieces includes 13 pieces that are on long-term loan from a museum overseer. The Malian Embassy in Washington has asked the United States to help it repatriate two of the African antiquities that are on loan. The Malian government said the items were smuggled out of the country probably after 1993 despite Malian laws prohibiting their excavation or export and a U.S. law forbidding their import.

Rogers, the museum director, said his institution was not responsible for settling the dispute, because the artifacts were on loan from a private collector, William Teel.

The November Collection of Mayan works from Guatemala was purchased for the museum by a trustee in 1987 who officially donated it in 1988, the museum said.

"Since we have legal title to it, we have the right and the duty to display these works, which are extraordinary advocates for their culture," Rogers said.

Zea Flores said the high-quality Mayan burial urns, gold adornments and polychrome ceramics with hieroglyphics, all from El Petén jungle, were stolen from Mayan sites and smuggled from the country without the export permits that Guatemala has required since 1947. This removal also violated a 1970 United Nations accord intended to stem the looting of cultural property, Guatemalan officials said.

"I asked the museum to show me their export permits; they haven't," Zea Flores said.

The items in the November Collection are "part of our history, our patrimony, and they were taken out illegally," Zea Flores said.

ROGERS declined to comment on whether the museum had export permits for the Mayan collection and refused to allow a reporter to review the museum's documentation on the pieces.

Instead, he said: "We look to American law and what is appropriate in the U.S.," adding that he did not believe Guatemala had presented legal proof that it owns the collection.

It appears that the museum has relied on the letter of U.S. law and that Guatemala and Mali have relied on their own national laws. Moreover, Guatemala and Mali apparently have international law on their side. Further, the museum's critics say that international museum and academic ethics in dealing with such artifacts seem to be opposed to the museum's position. That custom supports the contention that artifacts belong to the country of origin unless a clear, traceable title proves otherwise.

There is a further tangle. The November Collection, for instance, may have entered the United States legally but have left Guatemala illegally. That is because the United States did not sign the UN accord until 1983, 13 years after its creation.

In 1987, when the trustee

Landon Clay bought the Mayan works for the museum, the institution asked him to hire an attorney to assure them that Clay would have a clear, legal title. On this point, the lawyer's opinion was conclusive," Rogers said.

But last winter The Boston Globe reported that the attorney, Weld Henshaw, a partner in the Boston law firm Choate Hall & Stewart, was aware that Guatemala had required export permits for Mayan artifacts but that no permits were issued. More recently, Henshaw declined to comment on the matter. Clay, a Boston businessman who has given the museum \$1.5 million in art and money, did not return phone calls.

Alan Shestack, the mu-

seum's director when the Mayan purchase was made and now the deputy director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, also declined to comment.

When the museum bought the Mayan objects, it had an ethical obligation to determine how they left Guatemala and, if they were looted, to return them, said Martin Sullivan, director of the Heard Museum in Phoenix and chairman of the President's Committee on Cultural Affairs.

The pillage of Mayan ruins in El Petén had become so alarming that by April 1991 the U.S. Customs Service banned the import of such artifacts into the United States. In 1993, Mali won a similar ban.

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<p

A Hopeful Epilogue to Iranian Hostage Drama

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — A former hostage from the American Embassy in Tehran came together on Friday here with one of the Iranians who, as a student, directed the seizure of the embassy for 444 days in 1979.

Those who brought them together hoped the result would be a dialogue of reconciliation.

Barry Rosen of New York was the embassy's press spokesman when he was seized. Now aged 54, he is executive director of public affairs at Teachers College of Columbia University.

He shook hands after two-and-a-half hours of debate in the Unesco headquarters here with Abbas Abdi, who was one of his student captors.

Mr. Abdi, now 42, has become an

influential political journalist in Iran. About all they could actually agree on, at least in public, was that it would take a lot more meetings like theirs to overcome the hostility of the past 20 years and build a better future.

"What we call the hostage crisis was actually something closer to a defeat for both sides," Mr. Rosen said. "but must both sides be bad losers? Let's not dwell constantly on who did what to whom and when."

Mr. Rosen acknowledged that many Iranians blamed the United States for supporting the coup that restored Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi to power from 1953 to 1978. But Mr. Rosen said that neither Americans nor Iranians could overcome the past without acknowledging mistakes.

Mr. Abdi did not agree that occupying the embassy was a mistake and said it

was a spontaneous decision made by students who feared the United States was trying to thwart the Islamic Republic, which had driven the shah into exile.

"A nation deserves more apology than a handful of hostages," he said, but concluded, "I hope the relationship between Iran and the United States will go back to what it was before 1953, before the coup."

Mr. Rosen said he had decided to come because "I sensed the time had come to put closed to the 444 days that caused me great pain."

He added, "Nothing can replace a direct dialogue between the two governments. I'm convinced that two decades of animosity between our two countries is coming to an end."

Mr. Abdi said, "The past cannot be altered. Instead, we must focus on the

years ahead and endeavor to build a better future."

Mr. Abdi was himself imprisoned in Iran for eight months in 1993. He would not discuss that on Friday. "While the rhetoric of the U.S. government has softened, debts remain far behind," he said.

Iran's president, Mohammed Khatami, called last January for cultural exchanges to bring down what he called a "wall of mistrust" between the two nations. The U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, indicated last month that Mr. Khatami might be a man the United States could talk to.

Sources here said the meeting between Mr. Rosen and Mr. Abdi was held at Unesco in Paris because Britain refused to grant Mr. Abdi a visa. France's foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, plans is to visit Tehran this summer.

U.S. Asks Serb To Allow Aid For Kosovars

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — A U.S. diplomat urged President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia on Friday to allow international aid workers to deliver food, medicine and blankets to tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians who fled a major offensive in Kosovo.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the envoy, Christopher Hill, had also sought assurances that Mr. Milosevic had called off a weeklong offensive in Kosovo, as he promised a European Union delegation Thursday.

Despite the pledge, scattered clashes were reported by both Serbian and Albanian sources. The government's Tanjug news agency said eight ethnic Albanian "terrorists" were killed and several were arrested Friday when they attacked Serbian police near Lipjane, 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Kosovo's capital city of Pristina.

Three Serbian policemen were seriously wounded, the report said.

The Kosovo Information Center, under ethnic Albanian control, reported heavy shelling of villages close to the Albanian border, including Junik, a rebel stronghold where thousands of Albanian civilians were believed to have taken refuge.

The report could not be immediately confirmed. Junik has been reported under government siege for five days, but Mr. Milosevic told the Europeans that the Serbian troops would not shell the town.

Ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people, and many want independence from Serbia, largest of the two republics left in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Hill, who is the U.S. ambassador to neighboring Macedonia, has been spearheading international efforts to arrange peace talks between Mr. Milosevic and leaders of the ethnic Albanian community.

The rebel Kosovo Liberation Army has been resisting calls to unite behind a moderate ethnic Albanian, Ibrahim Rugova, who favors a peaceful solution.



FIGHTING THE YANGTZE — Villagers in Anhui Province southwest of Nanjing shoring up dikes Friday against the flooding Yangtze River, swollen by a month of heavy rain in Eastern China. Some dikes began collapsing Friday as the river rushed toward Shanghai, the country's largest city.

GOLD: Deutsche Bank Says It 'Deeply Regrets' Its Wartime Role

Continued from Page 1

profit and made little difference to its overall performance as a commercial enterprise, it had great importance in the Nazi war effort."

Ignatz Bubis, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said Deutsche Bank belonged to a "conspiracy of silence" during and after the war.

German banks "must now make all their information public and must no longer resort to the excuse that they had no knowledge of their Nazi-era dealings," Mr. Bubis said.

"I demand that the banks clearly recognize their responsibility for that period of time," Mr. Bubis said. "Of course, it is not the same persons, but it is the same institutions."

In its statement, Deutsche Bank said that it "deeply regrets any injustices"

and that it was "in contact with the World Jewish Congress in this matter."

Both banks previously have rejected the complaint, saying historical research shows they did not know the origin of gold purchased during the Nazi era.

On Friday, a spokesman at Deutsche Bank's headquarters in Frankfurt declined comment on the lawsuit, saying the findings by the commission were not directly related to it.

Dresdner Bank also has commissioned an independent team of historians to comb its archives and write a report on its wartime activities.

A high-level banker at a rival German bank, who asked not to be quoted by name, said he found Deutsche Bank's statement "astonishing" in its comparative openness on the Nazi gold issue.

"In my view, this is something with great legal implications that might cost them money," the banker said.

Deutsche Bank's stock fell 1.2 percent to close at 139.75 DM (\$79) on Friday.

The commission report, posted Friday on the Internet and later to appear as a book, shifts the debate over Nazi gold to Germany from Switzerland. UBS AG and Credit Suisse Group, Switzerland's two largest banks, have been in talks with Jewish groups for months to settle claims that they held stolen assets and covered up their Nazi past.

Switzerland's central bank, which was sued last month by Holocaust survivors, said Friday it was carrying out its own study to shed more light on its gold dealings with Nazi Germany during World War II.

New York City and New York state plan to start phasing in sanctions against Swiss commercial banks starting Sept. 1 if a settlement is not reached. California and other states are considering similar action.

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CAR: Toyota's Hybrid Is a Hit in Japan

Continued from Page 1

per gallon (3.5 liters per 100 kilometers), about double the fuel efficiency of a similar gasoline car. It also has half the gasoline car's carbon dioxide emissions and only 10 percent as much output of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.

Toyota executives said at a recent news conference here that their goal was for the American version to qualify for California's new proposed category of "super ultra-low-emission" vehicle.

Since the Prius uses gasoline, it cannot be a zero-emission vehicle. But under a proposal before the California Air Resources Board, such "super ultra-low" vehicles would be granted some credit toward meeting the future requirement that 10 percent of the vehicles sold by major manufacturers meet zero-emission standards.

While Toyota might at first concentrate on California and some other environmentally conscious markets, it eventually hopes to sell nationwide and does not want the car to be typecast as a fringe vehicle.

Hiromi Okuda, Toyota's president, recently announced in Japan that the com-

pany plans to export 20,000 Priuses a year starting in 2000, many of them no doubt bound for the United States. By contrast, in the past year only a few hundred electric vehicles have been sold in the United States by all manufacturers combined.

Fully electric vehicles are expensive and can be driven only about 100 miles (160 kilometers) or so before the batteries must be recharged, a process that takes several hours. The Prius, by contrast, can be filled up at a gasoline station like any other car. If it uses power from the gasoline engine to recharge the batteries as the car is driven, still it is never necessary to go to a recharging station.

Because the batteries and gasoline engine help each other, the Prius can get by with smaller versions of each, cutting costs and weight. The batteries, for instance, weigh only about one-fifteenth as much as those in a fully electric vehicle, and the gasoline engine has a capacity of only 1.5 liters.

Under complex computer control, the Prius switches from battery power to gasoline power, or a combination of the two, automatically and seamlessly. The driver just steps on the fuel pedal and is oblivious to what is powering the car.

When the car is idle or starting up at

slow speed, it is powered by the batteries alone. Therefore, there is no pollution or gasoline wasted when the car is, say, in traffic.

At moderate speeds, the car is powered by the gasoline engine. Some of the engine power that is not used to drive the vehicle is diverted to a generator to make electricity used to recharge the battery.

At very high speeds or during full-throttle acceleration, the battery and the gasoline engine work together.

In one 20-minute test drive mainly on city streets with one two-mile stretch of Los Angeles freeway, the Prius achieved only about 24 miles per gallon, far less than the 66 miles per gallon advertised and not even as good as many small all-gasoline cars.

Admittedly, test drivers accelerate more quickly than an average motorist would, but that is not the whole explanation. The fuel economy and low emissions of a hybrid come mainly from using batteries instead of gasoline. But that happens mainly at speeds up to about 10 miles per hour. At higher speeds, when the car relies mainly on gasoline, the Prius is not much more fuel-efficient than other cars. Moreover, with the air-conditioning running, the gasoline engine works while the car is stopped.

In the Japanese mileage test, which simulates congested city driving, the vehicle travels at an average speed of about 14 miles per hour, according to Toshiro Oi, the chief engineer of the Prius.

Toyota officials acknowledge that they have work to do to deliver the promise of the Prius under American driving conditions. Right now, for instance, the Japanese version of the car would qualify only as a "low-emission vehicle" in California, two ranks below the rating Toyota hopes to obtain with the American version.

Mr. Clinton's alleged statement about the gifts, Mr. Weisselberg said, has to be investigated and placed in context to know whether it was an innocent observation or a nefarious suggestion and possible subornation of perjury, which means knowingly getting someone else to commit perjury.

Moreover, Lloyd Weinreb of Harvard Law School said, the relationship between a president and a young White

House intern involves a colossal imbalance of power so any mere suggestion by him might be understood by her as an order. That, too, would add to possible subornation.

On the other hand, they may be seen as having worked together.

Thomas Puccio, a former federal prosecutor, said that if the two agreed to lie to federal prosecutors, then that is obstruction of justice. Given Ms. Lewinsky's grant of immunity, she would be an unindicted co-conspirator.

The federal statute on obstruction of justice about 30 pages and include a vast array of efforts to tamper with witnesses and evidence. One portion of the law states: "Whoever knowingly uses intimidation ... threatens or corruptly persuades another person ... with intent to influence, delay or prevent the testimony of any person in an official proceeding" shall be fined or imprisoned not more than 10 years.

Yet, Mr. Dershowitz said: "The bottom line is, no one knows what obstruction of justice is. We know it has to have a corrupt intent but it is a very gray area of the law."

The next question concerns alleged conversations between the president and Ms. Lewinsky on hiding their relationship and alleged efforts by Mr. Clinton to get Ms. Lewinsky a job through his friend, Vernon Jordan. Here, experts say, it probably all comes down to context.

"If he were found to have said it

something like, 'We both know it isn't true but say X,' that is an easy case," said Charles Weisselberg, professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley. "But it is likelier that his statements were far more ambiguous and they have to be interpreted."

According to lawyers familiar with her account, Ms. Lewinsky has said that Mr. Clinton told her of gifts he allegedly gave her. "If you don't have them, you can't turn them over."

Mr. Starr is also seeking to establish whether Mr. Clinton had urged Ms. Lewinsky to hide gifts, including a T-shirt, a brooch and a hat pin, that had been subpoenaed by Mrs. Jones's lawyers.

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Volcanic Source of Life?

Re-Creation of Early Conditions Yields Clue

By Nicholas Wade
New York Times Service

acids were assembled in a novel chemical reaction, they reported.

This experiment started with amino acids already in the mixture. It showed, however, that had amino acids formed under these conditions, they could go on to form peptide bonds.

Peptides formed in space are thought to have been delivered to Earth by meteorites and comets. Mr. Wachtershauser is also trying to show how amino acids might have been generated under volcanic conditions.

Norman Pace, an expert at the University of California at Berkeley, said the new reaction showed that it is relatively easy to make biological compounds from inorganic chemicals.

"Wachtershauser's concept of mineral-based chemistry being able to generate biologically active compounds is wonderful," Mr. Pace said.

Mr. Miller remained unconvinced by the proponents of a high-temperature origin of life, saying that many of the essential components of living cells are unstable at high temperatures.

But Mr. Woege said: "Since all this chemistry that Wachtershauser works with is novel, we have to cut him a little slack rather than close the door on it immediately."

RADIATION: Extraterrestrial Key

Continued from Page 1

laboratory, the result is a mixture of roughly equal amounts of the left-handed and right-handed forms. Scientists call such mixtures "racemic."

But living creatures, including humans, are assembled exclusively from left-handed amino acids and right-handed sugars.

Why and how this should be so are among the central mysteries of the origin of life, and such questions have prompted much scientific investigation and debate.

One thing is certain: Single-handedness, or homochirality, is an essential property of the amino acids and sugars incorporated into living organisms. This is because mixtures of left-handed and right-handed types would create molecular mismatches. Animals and plants cannot build coherent peptides and proteins from mixed pairs of amino acids, or mixed pairs of such sugars as ribose and deoxyribose — the corkscrew backbones of genetic RNA and DNA. It would be like trying to put a left glove on a right hand.

But how the gift of homochirality was bestowed on Earth as a mold for life is an unsolved mystery. Single-handedness had either to arise on the Earth itself, or to arrive from outer space, but which?

Scientists also wonder why biological amino acids happen to be left-handed rather than right-handed, which would be just as suitable for life. Was the choice decided by chance or was there some physical influence favoring left-handedness?

The report Friday from Australia lends weight to a growing body of evidence that homochirality is extraterrestrial in origin.

POLICY: Sanctions Are Ineffective Tools

Continued from Page 1

fearing that unilateral sanctions in particular are hurting American business or diplomatic interests more than the foreign country or companies they are intended to punish.

Earlier this month, Congress exempted food exports from sanctions automatically imposed on India and Pakistan after the two countries conducted nuclear tests in May. The exemption was made in part because the penalties would have barred American farmers from bidding on a \$3 billion wheat order from Pakistan.

Last week, a Senate committee shelved a popular bill to punish foreign countries, including China, that endorsed or permitted religious persecution after business groups protested that the punishments would alienate diplomatic allies and trading partners.

"There is a very significant re-evaluation going on regarding sanctions, as there should be," said Senator Chuck Hagel, the Nebraska Republican who led the fight to set aside the Senate's religious persecution bill.

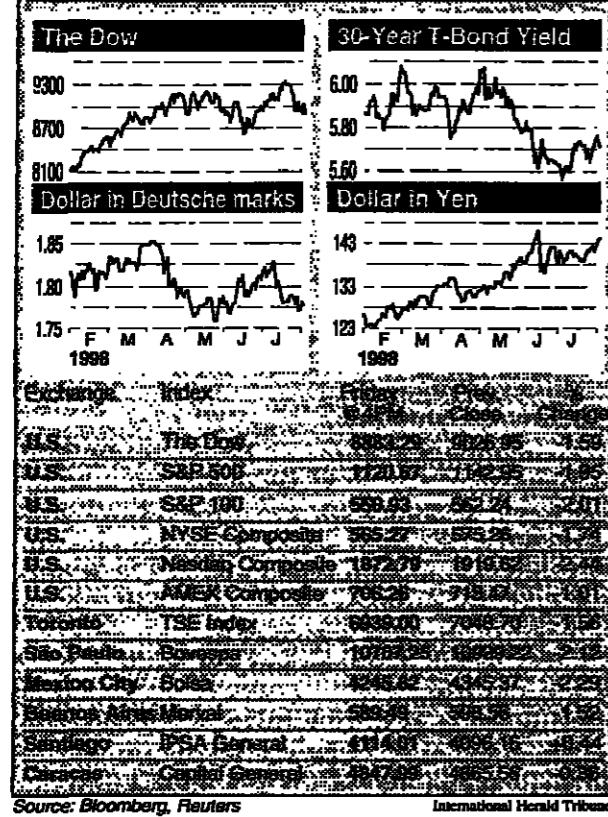
The administration is also recalibrating its approach. In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law bills aimed at

isolating Cuba, Libya and Iran. But when the measures threatened to draw Washington into a legal challenge and trade war with Canada and European allies, the administration backed down.

"Having gone through these experiences, it made people realize we needed a better process for the executive branch," said Stuart Eizenstat, under-secretary of state for economic affairs.

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

Gore Pushes for Electronic Privacy Protection

Tokyo Policy Undermines Flagging Yen

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Friday after Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan suggested that his country would not sell dollars soon to prop up the yen and on a report of higher-than-expected U.S. economic growth.

Mr. Miyazawa said economic performance, not market manipulation by governments, should determine the yen's value. That bodes poorly for the yen because the economy is mired in its worst recession in 50 years.

"Under usual circumstances this would be a reasonable policy, but

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

with the Japanese economy falling off a cliff, it does raise the question of how quickly the yen could fall," said Ken Watanabe, an economist at the Paribas Capital Markets who forecasts that the dollar will rise to 150 yen by the end of September.

The dollar was quoted at 4 P.M. at 144.61 yen, up from 143.72 yen Thursday.

It slumped to 1.7768 Deutsche marks from 1.7805 DM on expectations that economic reports out of Germany next week would provide proof that growth there is picking up, supporting prospects for higher interest rates.

The dollar slipped to 5.9565 French francs from 5.9703 francs and rose to 1.4918 Swiss francs from 1.4905 francs. The pound fell to \$1.6327 from \$1.6363.

The dollar got some support from a report showing that the U.S. gross domestic product in the second quarter rose at a 1.4 percent annual pace after two quarters.

"The dollar loves it," said Margaret Kudarauskas, senior foreign exchange analyst at Technical Data & Thompson Research in Boston.

Evenflo to Split From Spalding

Bloomberg News

TAMPA, Florida — Evenflo & Spalding Holdings Corp. said Friday that it would split in two, separating Evenflo Co.'s child products, which range from car seats to cribs, from Spalding Sports Worldwide, which sells Pop-Fit golf balls and Etonic running shoes.

The company said it would retain control of the Spalding operations and keep a 42 percent stake in Evenflo. Two shareholders, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. and Abarco NV, will make investments in Evenflo, with Kohlberg through a subsidiary, gaining 51 percent of its stock and Abarco 7 percent.

Evenflo & Spalding also warned that third-quarter profit from operations would be "significantly below" last year.

Pearson's Simon & Schuster Deal Faces Stepped-Up Review

Last year, more than 3,700 companies filed notices in connection with mergers, but of those the Justice Department subjected only 120 to the second level of review.

P

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Pearson declined to disclose what information the Justice Department was seeking, although a person who has been briefed on the review said regulators were examining the merger's impact on the diversity of

books for students in the kindergarten through high school market and the potential concentration in the college market in textbooks for chemistry, biology, math and physics.

Pearson agreed in May to buy Simon & Schuster's operations for \$4.6 billion, striking a deal to sell the reference unit to Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst for \$860 million.

AP Wirephoto

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AP Wirephoto

EUROPE

Court Backs Lloyd's on Debt Recovery PlanBy Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Lloyd's of London won a significant legal victory over former investors in the insurance market on Friday when the Court of Appeal rejected the investors' bid to overturn an earlier judgment allowing Lloyd's to recover more than £150 million (\$246 million) in debts.

The ruling strengthens Lloyd's in its efforts to recover a total of £30 million in debts from some 3,000 former investors, known as Names, and close a painful chapter of litigation stemming from the market's unprecedented £8 billion worth of losses in the early 1990s.

Those Names have refused to

pay their share of the losses, alleging that Lloyd's disguised the market exposure to enormous asbestos and pollution claims in order to attract new investors during the 1980s. Lloyd's has argued that the Names were in breach of their contractual obligations, which under the market's rule of unlimited liability require them to cover any losses up to the value of their entire assets.

"We've got a watertight legal judgment," said Philip Holden, debt recovery chief at Lloyd's. "There is now nowhere to go" for Names to escape their debts, he said.

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, the barrister who heads the United Names Organization that supported the appeal attempt, called the

decision a "great disappointment" and promised an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

"I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the judges are persuaded that the public interest lies in protecting Lloyd's and ensuring the survival of Lloyd's at all costs," she said.

About 100 Names are suing Lloyd's for fraud, and discovery in that case is scheduled to begin in October. But the appellate ruling upholds a key plank of Lloyd's financial recovery plan, which requires that Names pay their debts before being allowed to take any legal action.

"Many Names will be ruined before justice can be done," Mrs. Mackenzie Smith said.

It is unclear whether Lloyd's can actually recover the debts because senior executives have acknowledged that many Names are effectively bankrupt. But Mr. Holden said he was recovering payments at the rate of £2 million a month even before the ruling.

"Quite a large amount of cash can be recovered," he said.

Meanwhile, Lloyd's announced Friday that corporate investors had bought a further 1.5 percent of the market's underwriting capacity from Names in the second of a series of six auctions this week.

The auctions, which run through September, are expected to leave corporate investors controlling about three-quarters of the market.

Opposed to German Plans, Rolls-Royce Chief Resigns

The Associated Press

LONDON — The chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. resigned Friday rather than go along with two German automakers' plans to move production of Rolls-Royces out of its current factory.

Graham Morris expressed "deep personal regret" at leaving Rolls-Royce, which has been purchased by Volkswagen AG for \$700 million.

But Mr. Morris said he felt unable to stay amid plans by VW and its rival Bayerische Motoren Werke AG to carve up the company into two groups, one making Rolls-Royces and the other making Bentleys.

When VW bought the Rolls-

Royce factory in Crewe, England, from the engineering conglomerate Vickers PLC, it was not able to buy the rights to the Rolls-Royce brand name. VW signed a deal Tuesday that eventually will let BMW produce Rolls-Royce cars at a new factory.

BMW bought the Rolls-Royce brand name and logo for \$66 million from Rolls-Royce PLC, the jet engine maker that controlled them for years. Rolls-Royce PLC wanted BMW, its partner in an aerospace venture, to make Rolls-Royce cars beginning Jan. 1, 2003. VW will then rename its part of the company Bentley Motor Cars. VW will keep producing Bentleys in Crewe.



Graham Morris, who is resigning as the chief of Rolls-Royce.

IMF Plans \$2.2 Billion Loan to Bolster Ukraine Reserves

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KIEV — International Monetary Fund officials said Friday they would recommend a loan for Ukraine of about \$2.2 billion to help bolster the country's dwindling reserves.

Ukraine may get a first payment of as much as \$250 million on the three-year loan by the end of August, the IMF officials said.

Under the economic blueprint agreed upon by Ukraine and the IMF, the budget deficit as a proportion of gross domestic product is

to be reduced to 3.3 percent in 1998, and to around 2 percent in following years.

Ukraine has sustained many of the ills to which Russia fell prey during its financial crisis last spring. The government has had difficulty in boosting its tax revenues and balancing its budget, while the aftershocks from the Asian financial crisis have made investors wary of moving into its markets.

Ukraine spent about \$1.2 billion of its reserves in the first six months

this year to support its currency as foreign investors fled, leaving it with about \$1.75 billion.

Without IMF help, analysts believe that the Ukrainian economy — and currency — could buckle under the weight of mounting debt.

Ukraine, with a population of about 50 million, has attracted about \$2 billion in foreign investment since the Soviet collapse, while Hungary lured \$18 billion and Poland more than \$20 billion.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Friday, July 31 Daily prices in local currencies.

Telekurs High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index 1229.00 1228.00 1227.00 1226.00

ASB-AACR 53.00 52.00 51.00 51.00

Aerojet 19.00 18.00 18.00 18.00

Aerojet 16.00 15.00 15.00 15.00

ASB-AIA 10.00 9.50 9.50 9.50

ASB-Verz. 18.00 17.50 17.50 17.50

Bom Co. 25.10 24.00 24.00 24.00

Bom Co. 24.00 23.00 23.00 23.00

Cap Gemini 15.00 14.00 15.00 15.00

Cap Gemini 15.00 14.00 15.00 15.00

C&M Corp. 10.00 9.00 9.00 9.00

C&M Corp. 9.00 8.00 8.00 8.00

C&M Corp. 8.00 7.00 7.00 7.00

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C&M Corp. 6.00 5.00 5.00 5.00

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C&M Corp. 3.00 2.00 2.00 2.00

C&M Corp. 2.00 1.00 1.00 1.00

C&M Corp. 1.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

C&M Corp. 0.00 0.00 0.

ASIA/PACIFIC

NEC Pays \$225 Million For Control of Packard

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — NEC Corp., Japan's largest maker of personal computers and microchips, said Friday that it would spend \$225 million to take control of Packard Bell NEC Inc. in a bid to restore the California company to profitability.

Packard Bell will use the new dose of cash to promote sales and speed restructuring so the company can compete against rivals for computer sales in the United States and Europe, NEC said without giving details. Packard Bell has lost ground to Dell Computer Corp., which sells to U.S. customers directly, while Fujitsu Ltd., Japan's largest computer maker, has eaten into NEC sales in Japan.

NEC will bolster its voting power in closely held Packard Bell to 52.81 percent from 49 percent. Another major shareholder, Groupe Bell SA of France, will increase its investment by \$25 million to control an 11.68 percent stake.

Packard Bell was founded in 1986, when Benny Alagren and two partners bought rights to the name from Teledyne Corp. The company pioneered the home computer, and

in 1996 it merged with NEC Corp.'s PC business and Groupe Bell's Zenith Data Systems.

The goal of the merger was for Packard Bell to get needed cash and for NEC to get a brand name and increased market share in the United States, the largest market for PCs.

Packard Bell, which Gartner Group Inc.'s Dataquest says ranks fifth in worldwide PC shipments, has seen its U.S. market share slip to about 9 percent from 15 percent three years ago, industry figures show. Prices plummeted, prompting plant closings and firings.

Packard Bell had a pretax loss of \$47 million in 1997 on sales of \$3.89 billion. Mr. Alagren resigned last month as president and chief executive officer, citing differences with NEC and Bell.

As a result of NEC gaining control, Packard and Bell NEC will cooperate in procurement of materials and will consolidate factories and sales channels, said Seijiro Yokoyama, senior executive vice president of NEC.

The new spending should help Packard Bell make a profit again in the second half of calendar 1999, added.

Mr. Yokoyama said. The Packard Bell brand will survive, he said.

"We're doing this to remain a truly global player in PCs — the days are gone when you can depend on just one market," Mr. Yokoyama said.

NEC will most likely sell Packard Bell shares only after reporting 18 months of profit, Mr. Yokoyama added.

JAPAN: Bad Economic Data Greet New Prime Minister

Continued from Page 1

from 4.1 percent a month earlier. Some 2.84 million are now out of work, 24 percent more than a year ago. The number of jobs available — 51 for every 100 applicants — is also falling, the government said.

Workers at manufacturers with more than 30 employees clocked 18.7 percent less overtime in June compared with the same month last year, the Labor Ministry said. That helped push down wages adjusted for inflation by 0.9 percent, the 12th decline in the last 13 months.

A decline in spending has led builders to cut the prices of new homes, surveys show, and consumers can find steep bargains at department stores, supermarkets and golf courses.

Consumer prices nationwide fell 0.4 percent in June from May, with food, entertainment and transportation costs declining the most. Adjusted for inflation, prices fell 0.1 percent. In Tokyo, prices plunged 0.8 percent in July from June.

The largest Japanese retailers, meanwhile, sold 4.8 percent less in June from a year ago.

The government has already started spending its latest 16.65 trillion economic-stimulus package, which includes tax rebates worth as much as \$500 per family paid in June. The government will funnel 7.7 trillion yen into public works projects to spur construction companies.

Mr. Obuchi repeated Friday that he wants an additional 6 trillion yen in tax cuts, a move that will likely come early next year.

A High-Profile Adviser

Earlier, Stephanie Strom of the New York Times reported:

In his first full day of work as Japan's new prime minister, Keizo Obuchi embarked on an all-out charm offensive, wooing the international markets with a high-profile economic appointment.

He named Toyoo Gyohten, a legendary Japanese financier known for holding his own against the West, as special adviser.

Mr. Gyohten's appointment is meant to serve as assurance to foreign investors and world leaders that Mr. Obuchi, who is regarded as somewhat of a financial novice, is serious about pulling Japan's economy out of

the worst slump in decades. A former vice minister for international affairs at the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Gyohten earned the respect of such luminaries as Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve chairman, and Karl Otto Poehl, a former Bundesbank president, in work at both the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank.

He speaks fluent English and is said to be at ease in the rough-and-tumble confrontations that mark Western-style negotiations, which make most Japanese extremely uncomfortable.

He also was a leading player in negotiations that led to the Plaza Accord, the 1985 agreement by the Group of Seven nations to end the dollar's supremacy and bolster the value of the yen.

"For all his storied internationalism and open-mindedness, Toyoo Gyohten may well be the most formidable Japanese adversary the West has ever faced in the financial arena," Institutional Investor wrote in a profile of him shortly after the Plaza Accord was signed.

SEOUl — Two major Korean banks confirmed Friday that they would merge to form the country's largest single bank, giving a much-needed boost to President Kim Dae Jung's efforts to clean up the debt-ridden banking system.

The combination of two of the nation's top five banks — Hanil Bank and Commercial Bank of Korea — will create a bank with assets of 102 trillion won (\$82.7 billion).

The banks said they would reduce the number of workers and close some branches.

Also, they asked the government to take over a portion of their nonperforming loans, estimated to total \$10.4 billion.

Mr. Yokoyama said. The Packard Bell brand will survive, he said.

"We're doing this to remain a truly global player in PCs — the days are gone when you can depend on just one market," Mr. Yokoyama said.

NEC will most likely sell Packard Bell shares only after reporting 18 months of profit, Mr. Yokoyama added.

Hyundai Fires 1,569 Workers

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUl — Hyundai Motor Co. fired 1,569 workers Friday despite union workers' warnings that mass layoffs will lead to a prolonged strike at the country's leading automaker.

Some 3,000 unionized Hyundai workers, rallying in the company grounds, pledged to continue their work stoppage, which has crippled operations for 12 days.

"What management announced today means nothing," the Hyundai Motor union, one of the nation's most militant, said. "We will continue to fight until the company retracts the layoff decision."

Hyundai said Friday it fired the workers because of "urgent management reasons."

The job cuts will trim Hyundai's monthly 100 billion won (\$81 million) wage bill and help the company ride out Korea's deepest recession in four decades. (AP, Bloomberg)

Japan Agency Punishes 15 Financial Institutions

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — The Financial Supervisory Agency of Japan said Friday it had punished 15 banks and securities firms, with the harshest sentence going to Sanwa Bank Ltd., the nation's largest single bank, giving a much-needed boost to President Kim Dae Jung's efforts to clean up the debt-ridden banking system.

The agency banned Sanwa from selling mutual funds for a year, saying Japan's fourth-largest commercial bank bribed Ministry of Finance and Bank of Japan officials in exchange for information about interest rates and bank inspections.

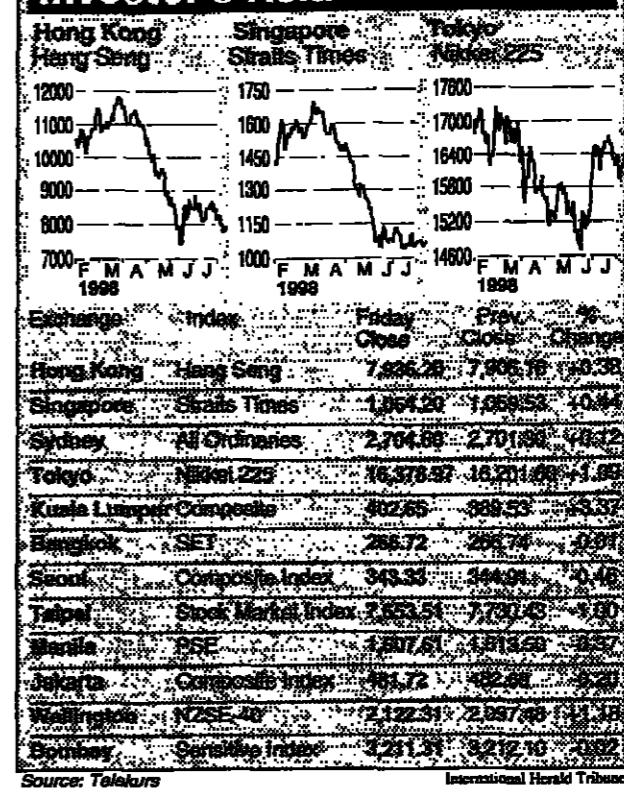
The agency also banned Sanwa from setting up a holding company until August 1999. The agency said it was especially hard on Sanwa because of the bank's "extremely inappropriate behavior."

The agency could make Sanwa fall behind rivals in over-the-counter sales of mutual funds, which are known as investment trusts in Japan. Their sales will be liberalized in Japan in December.

Other major banks, including Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and Sumitomo Bank Ltd. were ordered to submit reports to the agency about how to improve their operations.

(AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Asia



Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• China Three Gorges Project Development Corp., the company in charge of the world's biggest dam project, hired Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. to draft preliminary documents for a sale of shares on the New York and Hong Kong stock exchanges, according to published reports.

• Samsung Corp., the trading arm of Samsung Group of South Korea, said first-half sales rose 33 percent, to a record 17.7 trillion won (\$14.4 billion). A spokesman for the group denied speculation it was building a war chest to acquire either Kia Motors Corp. or Korea First Bank.

• Bank Negara Malaysia plans to reduce its three-month intervention rate by half a percentage point, to 10.5 percent, effective Monday. The central bank said inflation was contained and the current-account balance had improved.

• PT Pertamina, the state-owned Indonesian oil company, closed its offices in Singapore, New York and London to save money needed to offset fuel subsidies. The company is also seeking to sell all its fuel production-related subsidiaries.

• American Express Co. has applied with the Japanese Finance Ministry to offer investment-advisory services.

• United Overseas Bank Ltd. of Singapore said first-half profit fell 35 percent, to 256.4 million Singapore dollars (\$149.4 million), as it made provisions for current and potential bad loans in Asia. Net interest income rose 5 percent, to 608.4 million dollars. (AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Indonesia Utility Chief Loses Job

Bloomberg News

JAKARTA — Indonesia fired the president of PT Perusahaan Listrik Umum Negara on Friday and warned that the giant power utility would need 117 trillion rupiah (\$8.83 billion) from the government in the next five years to stay afloat.

The executive, Djiteng Marsudi, who had drawn fire from the minister of state enterprises, Tami Abeng, for allowing corruption to flourish during the Suharto years, was replaced by Adi Saryo, director of a unit that runs plants on Java and Bali.

“For haute couture you go to Paris. And for asset management? ”

To Geneva, of course. Its Private Bankers have developed made-to-measure asset management into an art. Unique investment expertise and a global perspective have established their worldwide reputation for capital growth... a reputation they have ably defended for 200 years.



LIBERTY · INDEPENDENCE · RESPONSIBILITY

IN GENEVA:

BORDIER & Cie
(1844)

DARIER HENTSCHE & Cie
(1796)

LOMBARD ODIER & Cie
(1798)

MIRABAUD & Cie - PICTET & Cie
(1819) (1805)

NASDAQ

Friday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NASDAQ																										
12 Month			12 Month			12 Month			12 Month			12 Month			12 Month			12 Month			12 Month					
High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52W High	52W Low	52W	Div	Yld	PE	52W High	52W Low	52W	Div	Yld	PE	52W High	52W Low	52W	Div	Yld	PE	52W High	52W Low	52W
172	168	ABE Inc			172	168	159	159	1.72	1.72	172	168	159	159	1.72	1.72	172	168	159	159	1.72	1.72	172	168	159	159
252	242	ACT Inc			252	242	232	232	1.25	1.25	252	242	232	232	1.25	1.25	252	242	232	232	1.25	1.25	252	242	232	232
159	154	ADM			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM Int'l			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM N			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-A			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-C			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-E			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-G			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-H			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-I			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-J			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-K			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-L			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-M			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-N			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-O			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-P			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-Q			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-R			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-S			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-T			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-U			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-V			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-W			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-X			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-Y			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-Z			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154
159	154	ADM S-A			159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	154	154	154	1.59	1.59	159	15		

DAVE BARRY

Face It, You're Fat

MAMI — Today I have an extremely important topic to discuss with you, but before I decide what it is, I need to "set the record straight" on something:

In a recent column, I made a statement that turned out to be inaccurate. Yes. Although the error was corrected by a few alert editors, many newspapers, tragically, did not catch it.

My statement was that Gleem toothpaste used to have an ingredient called "Gardol," which created an Invisible Protective Shield that deflected baseballs. This is simply not true. It was actually COLGATE toothpaste that had Gardol. I am not sure what Gleem had in the way of a cavity-fighter. I know it wasn't Buckley Beaver, because he was affiliated with Ipana toothpaste, although eventually he developed a drinking problem and wound up working in porno cartoons. I'm thinking maybe Gleem had that obnoxious little tooth who was always

getting tied to the railroad tracks by Mister Tooth Decay. But I don't want to speculate on this until I have all the facts.

Why am I so concerned about accuracy? Because American journalism — which had already sunk to the same level of public trust as Charles Manson — recently had a series of embarrassing incidents in which writers for respected magazines and newspapers simply made up quotations and sources. The most prominent example was The Washington Post, which on June 24 was forced to print a front-page statement admitting that there is not, nor has there ever been, any "Marion Barry."

In an effort to find out what's behind this disturbing trend of reporters inventing sources, I interviewed the president of The American Association of Journalists, Warren P. Cormorant Jr.

"Why do journalists make up sources and quotations?" Cormorant asked rhetorically, as he leaned back in his worn leather chair and idly scratched his scalp with a Dorito shard. "I'll tell you why. Because when we interview real people, they talk too fast for us to write it down, plus they never say anything interesting. I know for a fact that Kenneth Starr is a hermaphrodite."

But that is as it may, my point is that this column is dedicated to giving you, as accurately as possible, the information that you need to lead an informed, productive and happy life, which is why today I am pleased to report that, according to guidelines recently adopted by the federal government regarding body weight, the odds are that you, personally, are a big wad of fat.

Perhaps you are wondering why the federal government, an institution that encompasses not only Newt Gingrich, but also both of President Clinton's thighs, is setting standards for body weight. The answer can be found in the U.S. Constitution, which states that the primary function of the government is, quote, "to constantly think up rules and guidelines that no real person can understand, let alone follow." The shining federal example is of course the Internal Revenue Service, which has done such a fine job that as of 1997, only nine U.S. citizens were in full compliance with all tax regulations, and six of those people perished while undergoing the IRS's new "Jungle Challenge" auditing program.

So anyway, several years ago, the National Institutes of Health was alarmed to discover that, under the federal body-weight guidelines, only one-third of all Americans were classified as overweight. This meant that a shocking TWO-THIRDS of Americans were within federal weight guidelines, which is a flagrant violation of federal guidelines regarding federal guidelines. And so the NIH convened a panel of experts and they came up with new, much stricter, set of guidelines, under which, to quote the NIH report, "basically every U.S. citizen, living or dead, is classified as overweight except the woman who plays Monica on 'Friends.'"

But the point is that if you're an American, you're overweight. The question is: Who is responsible? I interviewed the U.S. Surgeon General about this, and he or she told me: "I blame food. It's everywhere! Some mornings I wake up and there are Snickers bars in bed with me! I'm taking up smoking."

You may rest assured that we here in journalism will keep you updated on this important story until we get bored with it later today. Meanwhile, we ask that you help "keep us on our toes" by reporting any inaccuracies you find in this column, or anywhere else, to the publisher of this newspaper, Citizen Kane. Who by the way could stand to lose a few kilograms.

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France	0-800-99-0011	Netherlands	0800-072-9111	United Kingdom	0-800-88-99-11						
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SPORTS

Mercedes' Formula One Chase Is Closing In

By Brad Spurgeon
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The two McLaren-Mercedes cars again dominated Friday in the early practice for the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim. For Mercedes-Benz, which makes the team's engines, it promised a long-awaited victory in its home Grand Prix on Sunday.

Last Sunday, Mercedes-powered cars won in the world's two leading open-wheel race series: at the Austrian Grand Prix and the U.S. 500 in Michigan. McLaren-Mercedes cars lead the Formula One title race, while Mercedes won the manufacturers' title last year in the Championship Auto Racing Teams, or CART, series.

Yet, last weekend was clouded by a tragedy that conjured up memories of one of the worst days in motor racing and Mercedes history.

In the U.S. 500, the Ford-powered car of Adrián Fernández hit a wall; a wheel and other parts flew into the crowd, killing three spectators. More than 43 years earlier, on June 11, 1955, at the Le Mans 24-hour race, a Mercedes driven by Pierre Levegh flew off the track and

killed more than 80 spectators.

The Le Mans crash caused Mercedes, whose involvement in auto racing began with the Daimler engine that powered the winning car in the first-ever auto race, the Paris-Rouen in 1894, to withdraw from racing for 30 years.

The company returned in 1985 as an engine supplier to Peter Sauber's Swiss-based sports car team. By 1989, with Sauber as its official factory team, Mercedes won the international sports car championship. The crowning achievement was a victory at the Le Mans.

Now the McLaren-Mercedes team leads the race for the Formula One constructors' title. It is the only title Mercedes has not won since its return to motor racing. It is also the most important, Mercedes says.

"If you put together all the other categories of motor racing, they don't get the worldwide exposure and the audience that Formula One alone gets," said Norbert Haug, the head of Mercedes Motorsport.

Mercedes re-entered Formula One discreetly in 1993 (with a label on an Ilmor engine in a Sauber car), but did not

taste victory until 1997, when David Coulthard won the Australian Grand Prix in a McLaren-Mercedes. Haug said the secret to that victory was in the paint job: after racing for two years in red and white the team colored the McLaren cars silver and immediately won the first race.

"We should have done that much earlier," Haug said. "It was continuing the history of the Silver Arrows cars."

In 1994, new Grand Prix rules required that cars weigh no more than 750 kilograms (1,650 pounds). Mercedes had to shed one kilo from its car, so it stripped off the paint, leaving only the aluminum body. The car won the first race and dominated the pre-World War II era.

In the 1950s, the Silver Arrows re-entered Formula One and won their first race. Juan Manuel Fangio won two of his five drivers' titles in the cars, in 1954 and 1955, before the season was cut short by the Le Mans disaster.

In those days a single car constructor could build a winning machine. Today specialists create practically every element, and few builders go it alone.

The Mercedes racing engines are designed and built by Mario Ilien, a Swiss engineer who directs a team of more

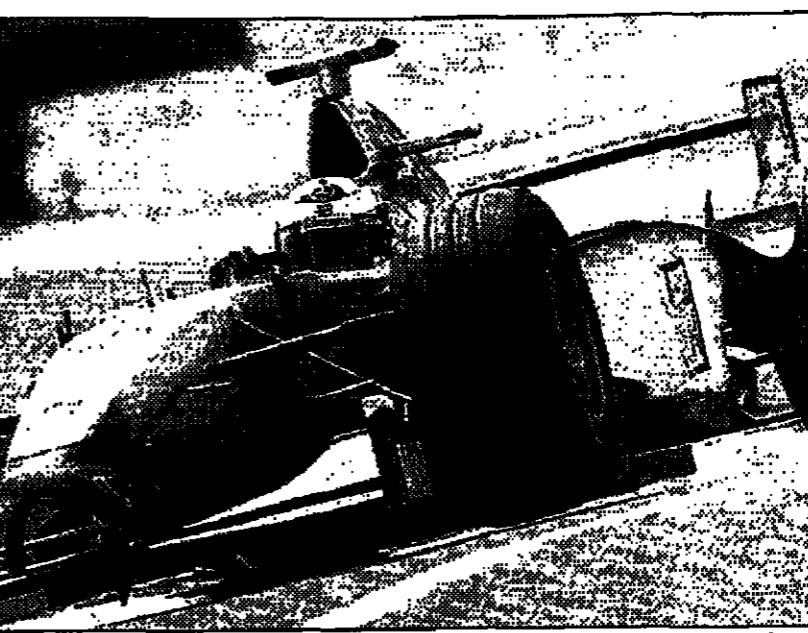
than 300 workers, including Mercedes engineers, at Ilmor Engineering, whose headquarters are in England. The engines are tested on the Mercedes test bench in Germany.

Ilmor came to prominence in the 1980s building engines under the Chevrolet name for Roger Penske. The American businessman and CART team owner also owns a quarter of Ilmor, as does Mercedes.

In 1994, a Penske-Mercedes-Ilmor engine powered a Penske car driven by Al Unser Jr. to victory in the engine's first effort in the Indianapolis 500. But victory in Formula One remained elusive. Mercedes dropped the Sauber team after 1994 in favor of McLaren, but even with this top team it took two more seasons before first Mercedes victory. For a time, the engine just kept breaking down.

"We pushed to the limit and created a huge acceleration process within the whole organization and that cost us some reliability," Haug said. "But that's the only way forward. Being reliable and slow achieves nothing."

A win at the German race would be the first there for Mercedes since 1954. It would also confirm that McLaren-

Mercedes-McLaren's David Coulthard practicing Friday at Hockenheim. Steve E. Miller/Wirephoto

Mercedes has returned to its early-season dominance. Its cars won five of the first six races, before Michael Schumacher won the next three in a Ferrari.

Some have wondered whether Mercedes-McLaren team's success is a revival of the Mercedes tradition or a

continuation of the winning habits of McLaren, which builds the chassis and runs the racing team.

"I don't waste one second of my time asking how much is them and how much is us," Haug said. "We are McLaren-Mercedes, and we are a team."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
67	67	.500	0
65	69	.477	1
59	75	.455	5
55	79	.438	9
54	85	.405	14
42	93	.294	34
42	93	.294	34

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
65	65	.500	0
55	75	.455	11
47	85	.393	18
45	87	.424	15
44	87	.417	17
42	89	.405	19

WEST DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
57	69	.454	0
55	70	.433	1
48	75	.400	4
47	76	.393	5
39	76	.333	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
72	57	.567	0
54	71	.419	14
52	73	.400	16
42	85	.309	26
39	86	.264	32

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
61	56	.500	0
55	61	.455	5
55	61	.455	5
49	65	.439	13
39	70	.333	21

WEST DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
70	58	.548	0
57	61	.498	13
54	63	.471	14
48	69	.424	22
39	70	.311	31

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